

Application No.: 10/767,652

Docket No.: 209546-81662

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 3. This sheet replaces the original sheet of Figures 2 and 3. In Figure 3, the previously omitted feature of fiberglass reinforcing fibers in the urethane foam material has been added as element 177.

Attachment: Replacement sheet

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REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 18-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Claims 1 and 8 are amended, Claims 14-17 are canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention, and Claims 18-26 are added. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following Remarks.

1. Applicants acknowledge the election of Group I, Claims 1-13. By this Amendment, Claims 14-17 are canceled as being directed to the non-elected invention.

However, Applicant strongly disagrees with the Office action with respect to the Election of Species requirement. As asserted by the Applicant in the earlier response to the Election of Species Requirement, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 are generic claims to all Species A-F, Figures 1A-1G, contrary to the Office action.

In addition, amended independent Claims 1 and 8, and new independent Claim 18 read on all Species A-F, Figures 1A-1G. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the finality of the Election of Species Requirement and provide specific reasons as to why the claims recited above are not generic to all Figure 1A-1G.

2. The Office action rejects Claims 1-2, 4-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph asserting that the feature of a core, as recited in Claims 1 and 8, and the feature of fiber reinforcing fibers, as recited in Claims 6, 13, must be shown in the drawings. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant asserts that the core, designated as numeral 175, is described throughout the specification and also shown in Figure 3 of the drawings. With respect to the fiberglass reinforcing fibers, one skilled in the art would understand that a core made of foam material may include fiberglass reinforcing fibers, and that this feature does not need to be shown in the drawings to understand the invention.

However, to expedite the prosecution of the instant application, Applicant has amended Paragraph [0015] of the specification and Figure 3 to illustrate the fiberglass reinforcing fibers.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

3. The Office action rejects Claims 1-2, 4-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Preisler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,475,937, hereinafter "Preisler"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Preisler discloses a headliner 44 made of thermoplastic material having at least one integrally-formed, energy-absorbing, head-impact mechanism in the form of thermoplastic ribs 52, 54 having tubular voids 56. The headliner 20 is formed by an injection molding process and the ribs 52, 54 are formed by gas injection. *See Fig. 8, col. 6, lines 13-23.*

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. *See MPEP §2131.* Contrary to the Office action that all of the elements of Claims 1 and 8 are disclosed in Preisler, at least the feature of a headliner comprising a core made of foam material and including at least one integrally-molded energy distribution zone comprising a series of undulations, is not disclosed, taught or suggested in Preisler, so the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

By contrast, the headliner of Preisler is made of an injected-molded thermoplastic material and includes ribs having tubular voids, not a series of undulations, as in the claimed invention. An undulation by definition comprises a rising and falling in waves, which are clearly not disclosed, taught or suggested in Preisler.

In addition, new Claims 24-26 define that the at least one integrally-molded energy distribution zone is substantially uniform in density, thereby further distinguishing the claimed invention from the hollow ribs 54 of Preisler.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Should Examiner Patel believe anything further would be desirable in order to place the application in better condition for allowance; the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

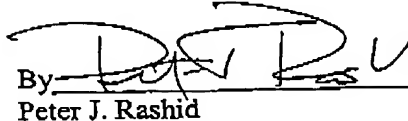
It is believed that any additional fees due with respect to this paper have already been identified. However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper, permission is given to charge account number 50-3145 in the name of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP.

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Respectfully submitted,

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